UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2863
(IND/78/001)
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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Special Assistance to Selected University Departments (Phase II) (IND/78/001)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	July 1979
Starting date of project activities:	October 1979 (Planned)
Planned completion date:	December 1982
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	University Grants Commission (Ministry of Education)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$2 491 600
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The higher education system in Universities in India consists of over one hundred universities and 4,500 colleges with an enrolment of over 3.5 million students and 150,000 teachers. Within this system there is a pressing need, in the field of science, to strengthen post-graduate training and research (both basic and applied), and to channel the limited available resources effectively to a few selected departments (Departments of Special Assistance) in certain specific fields, to promote excellence and team work. While the present system produces some persons with Master's or Ph.D. degrees, they are not sufficient to fulfil the serious need for qualified personnel to undertake specialized problem- or product-oriented research to meet fast-changing developmental needs. The present project therefore aims at raising the standards of the country's universities and other institutions of higher learning in teaching and research as a means of serving India's over-all developmental needs.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The selected departments invited to participate in the Special Assistance Programme of the University Grants Commission, would make efforts to establish opportunities for Research and Development specialization and reach a certain 'critical' size by way of staff and facilities, so that their efforts could be sustained and at the same time, remain capable of flexible adaptation to other newly emerging but related specialities of Research and Development significance.

3. This project is the second phase of a project Special Assistance to Selected University Departments (IND/72/032) 1/ which assisted in the upgrading of nine University Departments.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objective of this project is to support the Ministry of Education, Government of India, through the University Grants Commission in the latter's long-term efforts to create a proper climate for high-level university training and research by the over-all support of science departments of special assistance. To this end the national and international staff working together and with the equipment to be supplied under this project will: (a) further develop the capabilities of the Departments' staff in teaching and research and development; (b) further train staff in specific fields and techniques; and (c) equip laboratories with sophisticated equipment which will enable the Departments to undertake research at internationally recognized standards.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide for the services of consultants, for 83 man-months, who will associate themselves with the teaching and research programmes undertaken by the departments to which they are attached, and of high-level technicians for 9 man-months; for a training programme of 468 man-months; and equipment for specially identified research work to be undertaken by the nine selected departments.

6. The Government will provide professional counterpart staff and supporting staff, premises with facilities and funds for miscellaneous items.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned UNDP assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	608 800
Training	786 200
Equipment	1 089 600
Miscellaneous	7 000
	2 491 600

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $1,401,500 in kind.

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